

ABSTRACT**OPTICAL DETECTION SYSTEM**

An optical detection system comprising an electromagnetic radiation source, a source radiation focusing and collimating means, a photodetector, an emitted radiation focusing means and a source radiation blocking panel. The radiation source is used to direct source radiation onto a sample which is disposed in a sample platform. The source radiation focusing and collimating means is disposed between the radiation source and the sample for focusing and collimating the source radiation onto the sample. The photodetector is adapted for receiving radiation emitted from the sample which has been focused by the emitted radiation focusing means. The source radiation blocking panel, disposed between the source radiation focusing and collimating means and the sample, is unique in that it is capable of reducing light scattering and interference, such that a clear signal from each individual sample can be obtained by the photodetector.

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FIGURE 1A.